



WILBRAHAM

Hampden County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Wilbraham offers its residents a beautiful rural setting with easy access to downtown Springfield. During its years of development as suburb adjacent to the city, Wilbraham has maintained a strong sense of community and has preserved large tracts of open space. The town boasts several working farms, and each year hosts the Wilbraham Peach Festival, which celebrates the numerous fruit orchards which dot the landscape. The Wilbraham and Monson Academy, a private residential college preparatory school, maintains a large and stately campus in the center of town. The town has long prided itself on its ability to plan growth and provide an excellent level of public services. The town boasts many beautiful residential neighborhoods and an outstanding public education system. Looking to the future, town officials are now focusing their efforts on the development of the Boston Road Commercial Corridor, which will allow the community to improve its commercial tax base and enhance community services.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location: West central Massachusetts, bordered by East Longmeadow on the southwest, Springfield on the west, Ludlow on the north, Palmer and Monson on the east, and Hampden on the south. The Chicopee River runs along the northern boundary of the town. Wilbraham is 6 miles east of Springfield; 81 miles southwest of Boston; 33 miles north of Hartford, Connecticut; and 140 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 22.42 sq. miles

Land Area: 22.22 sq. miles

Population: 12,635

Density: 569 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Springfield Station)

Normal temperature in January.....26.8°F

Normal temperature in July.....74.1°F

Normal annual precipitation.....43.9"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Hampden, Ludlow

Regional Planning Agency

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Springfield



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 596-8111

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Administrator

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1763

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	8,126		
Democrats	2,718	33.4	%
Republicans	1,938	23.8	%
Other parties	1	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	3,469	42.7	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Wilbraham town, Hampden County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	13,473	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	13,473	100.0
Male.....	6,473	48.0	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	189	1.4
Female.....	7,000	52.0	Mexican.....	29	0.2
Under 5 years.....	754	5.6	Puerto Rican.....	88	0.7
5 to 9 years.....	977	7.3	Cuban.....	7	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	1,164	8.6	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	65	0.5
15 to 19 years.....	959	7.1	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	13,284	98.6
20 to 24 years.....	338	2.5	White alone.....	12,873	95.5
25 to 34 years.....	983	7.3	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	2,301	17.1	Total population.....	13,473	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	2,246	16.7	In households.....	13,246	98.3
55 to 59 years.....	832	6.2	Householder.....	4,891	36.3
60 to 64 years.....	640	4.8	Spouse.....	3,361	24.9
65 to 74 years.....	1,125	8.4	Child.....	4,375	32.5
75 to 84 years.....	842	6.2	Own child under 18 years.....	3,500	26.0
85 years and over.....	312	2.3	Other relatives.....	347	2.6
Median age (years).....	42.1	(X)	Under 18 years.....	90	0.7
18 years and over.....	9,854	73.1	Nonrelatives.....	272	2.0
Male.....	4,622	34.3	Unmarried partner.....	148	1.1
Female.....	5,232	38.8	In group quarters.....	227	1.7
21 years and over.....	9,530	70.7	Institutionalized population.....	226	1.7
62 years and over.....	2,644	19.6	Noninstitutionalized population.....	1	-
65 years and over.....	2,279	16.9	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	955	7.1	Total households.....	4,891	100.0
Female.....	1,324	9.8	Family households (families).....	3,872	79.2
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	1,819	37.2
One race.....	13,369	99.2	Married-couple family.....	3,361	68.7
White.....	12,988	96.4	With own children under 18 years.....	1,545	31.6
Black or African American.....	161	1.2	Female householder, no husband present.....	393	8.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	8	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	219	4.5
Asian.....	170	1.3	Nonfamily households.....	1,019	20.8
Asian Indian.....	39	0.3	Householder living alone.....	876	17.9
Chinese.....	41	0.3	Householder 65 years and over.....	507	10.4
Filipino.....	7	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	1,887	38.6
Japanese.....	-	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	1,446	29.6
Korean.....	36	0.3	Average household size.....	2.71	(X)
Vietnamese.....	22	0.2	Average family size.....	3.09	(X)
Other Asian ¹	25	0.2	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	8	0.1	Total housing units.....	5,048	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	4	-	Occupied housing units.....	4,891	96.9
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	2	-	Vacant housing units.....	157	3.1
Samoa.....	2	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	27	0.5
Some other race.....	34	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.2	(X)
Two or more races.....	104	0.8	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.5	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	4,891	100.0
White.....	13,080	97.1	Owner-occupied housing units.....	4,368	89.3
Black or African American.....	203	1.5	Renter-occupied housing units.....	523	10.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	26	0.2	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.78	(X)
Asian.....	199	1.5	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.12	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	9	0.1			
Some other race.....	69	0.5			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 84

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Wilbraham is located in the Pioneer Valley, known as the crossroads of New England because of its strategic position along the Connecticut River and its excellent transportation facilities. The Massachusetts Turnpike connects the region to Boston and to Albany, New York. Interstate 91 provides direct access to Hartford, Connecticut, and to Brattleboro and points north in Vermont.

Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 20 and the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90), with an interchange in neighboring Palmer.

Rail

Passenger service is available on Amtrak in neighboring Springfield. Conrail provides freight service in Wilbraham. Contact number: (617) 783-6222

Bus

Wilbraham is a member of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA), which provides fixed route service to Springfield. The PVTA also provides paratransit services to the elderly and disabled through the Council on Aging.

Other

Westover Metropolitan Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in neighboring Chicopee, has 2 asphalt and concrete runways 7,050' and 11,600' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Old Meeting House Museum

450 Main Street

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Life Care Center Of Wilbraham

Wingate At Wilbraham Rehab. & Snr.

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.